

SENATE—Thursday, March 25, 1999

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, thank You for this time of prayer when our minds and hearts can be enlarged to receive Your Spirit. You are the answer to our deepest need. More than any secondary gift You give, we long for the primary gift of Yourself, offered in profound love and acceptance. We have learned that when we abide in Your presence and are receptive to Your guidance, You inspire our minds with insight and wisdom, our hearts with resiliency and courage, and our bodies with vigor and vitality.

In the quiet of this moment, we commit all our worries to You. We entrust to You our concerns over the people in our lives. Our desire is to give ourselves to the work of this day with freedom and joy. Especially give the Senators strength when they are weary, fresh vision when their wells run dry, and indefatigable hope when others become discouraged. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the distinguished President pro tempore.

On behalf of our distinguished majority leader, I have been asked to make the following announcement. This morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 20. There are now 10 hours remaining for consideration of the bill. As announced last night, there will be no rollcall votes this morning prior to 11:00 a.m. However, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout the remainder of today's session as the Senate attempts to complete action on the budget bill.

All Members will be notified of the voting schedule today as it becomes available. Also, the leader has announced that if the Senate completes action on the budget resolution today, there will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session.

Finally, all Senators are reminded that pursuant to a unanimous consent agreement reached yesterday, all first-

degree amendments must be offered by 12 noon today.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 20, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 20) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2000 through 2009.

The Senate resumed consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Pending:

Specter/Harkin amendment No. 157, to provide for funding of biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.

Craig amendment No. 146, to modify the pay-as-you-go requirement of the budget process to require that direct spending increases be offset only with direct spending decreases.

Dodd amendment No. 160, to increase the mandatory spending in the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$7.5 billion over five years, the amendment reduces the resolution's tax cut and leaves adequate room in the revenue instructions for targeted tax cuts that help families with the costs of caring for their children, and that such relief would assist all working families with employment related child care expenses, as well as families in which one parent stays home to care for an infant.

Voinovich amendment No. 161, to use on-budget surplus to repay the debt instead of tax cuts.

Reed amendment No. 162, to provide for certain Federal revenues, total new budget authority, and total budget outlays.

Crapo/Grams amendment No. 163, to create a reserve fund to lock in additional non-Social Security surplus in the outyears for tax relief and/or debt reduction.

Graham amendment No. 164, to express the sense of the Senate that funds recovered from any Federal tobacco-related litigation should be set-aside for the purpose of first strengthening the medicare trust fund and second to fund a medicare prescription drug benefit.

Graham amendment No. 165, to express the sense of the Senate that the Congress and the President should offset inappropriate emergency funding from fiscal year 1999 in fiscal year 1999.

Lautenberg amendment No. 166, to express the sense of the Senate on saving Social Security and Medicare, reducing the public debt, and targeting tax relief to middle-income working families.

Lautenberg (for Schumer) amendment No. 167, to express the sense of the Senate that the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program should be reauthorized in order to provide continued Federal funding for the hiring, deployment, and retention of community law enforcement officers.

Lautenberg (for Feinstein) amendment No. 168, to express the sense of the Senate regarding school construction grants, and reducing school sizes and class sizes.

Lautenberg (for Feinstein) amendment No. 169, to express the sense of the Senate on the social promotion of elementary and secondary school students.

Lautenberg (for Reid) amendment No. 170, to express the sense of the Senate regarding social security "notch babies", those individuals born between the years 1917 and 1926.

Lautenberg (for Boxer) amendment No. 171, to ensure that the President's after school initiative is fully funded for fiscal year 2000.

Lautenberg (for Murray) amendment No. 172, to fully fund the Class Size Initiative, the amendment reduces the resolution's tax cut by ten billion dollars, leaving adequate room in the revenue reconciliation instructions for targeted tax cuts that help those in need and tax breaks for communities to modernize and rebuild crumbling schools.

Lautenberg (for Murray) amendment No. 173, to express the sense of the Senate on women and Social Security reform.

Lautenberg (for Hollings) amendment No. 174, to continue Federal spending at the current services baseline levels and pay down the Federal debt.

Lautenberg (for Boxer) amendment No. 175, to ensure that the substantial majority of any income tax cuts go to middle and lower income taxpayers.

AMENDMENT NO. 157

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry. Yesterday evening, the pending amendment which had been offered on behalf of Senator HARKIN and myself, as principal sponsors, on the National Institutes of Health, was debated shortly before 8 p.m., when voting started on four items. I believe the order was that we would resume consideration today with that pending amendment. My inquiry is, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The Senator has 5 minutes 20 seconds remaining under his control.

Mr. SPECTER. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam President. That seems not correct to me. I debated this issue for maybe 10 minutes at the most yesterday. Isn't there an hour allotted to each side on each amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the amount allocated to the amendment was reduced to a half-hour for each side for all first-degree amendments.

Mr. SPECTER. A half-hour for each side for all first-degree amendments?